

SN. 09/648,101

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:012

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-15, 17-24, and 26-28 remain pending in this application for which applicant seeks reconsideration.

Art Rejection

Claims 1-6, 8, 10-15, 17, 19-24, 26, and 28<sup>1</sup> stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Urushiya (JP 05-342344). Claims 9, 18, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Urushiya in view of Kumashiro (USP 5,721,624). Applicant traverses these rejections because Urushiya would not have disclosed or taught controlling and displaying at least one joint portion of the images as set forth in independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 28.

Specifically, each of independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 28 calls for a control for displaying at least one joint portion of an image synthesized from a plurality of joined images, a designating control for designating the joint portion, and a correction control for correcting the designated joint portion of the synthesized image. According to the present invention, the synthesized image can be easily checked and corrected since the joint portion is designated and displayed in a specifiable manner for easy and quick error checking.

Urushiya discloses means for accurately designating corresponding joint portions of a plurality of images to be stitched together. Here, the operator designates the joint portions having the common area of the images to be stitched together with an input device 7. After the images are stitched together, affine coefficients of the corresponding points of the images based on the joint portions designated by the operator can be obtained. In contrast to the claimed invention, in Urushiya, the operator manually designates the areas to be stitched together using an input device. Accordingly, Urushiya would not have disclosed or taught the claimed means/method/module for controlling the display such that at least one joint portion of the synthesized image is displayed in a specifiable manner.

<sup>1</sup> Claims 19-24 and 26 were not specifically listed in the header of paragraph 6 of the Detailed Action, but mentioned in the discussion portion thereof.

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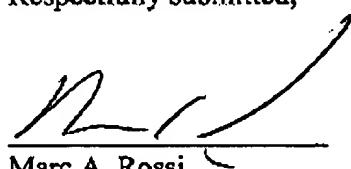
Kumashiro would not have alleviated Urushiya's shortcomings identified above, even if the combination were deemed proper for argument's sake.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that claims 1-6, 8-15, 17-24, and 26-28 patentably distinguish over the applied references, and are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicant urges the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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